

Luyengo dairy farmers increase production to 75%

LUYENGO Dairy Farmers Association, a group funded by the United States African Development Foundation (USADF), has managed to increase its production levels by 35% in two years.

The farmers, who started off with only seven dairy cows have since tripled their livestock and increased production from 40% to 75%, said Bheki Dube from Regional Excellence and Development Initiative (REDI), the project managers.

He said the association had 30 members who fully own the dairy enterprise. He said the association was granted a loan of E312 180 two years ago and the farmers were assisted with training in marketing, financial management and business skills.

Dube said after the success of the project in the two years, the farmers were granted a further loan of E1.8 million, which is to run until September 2013, and an additional 14 dairy cows.

"The project is monitored and evaluated by REDI. We conduct three monthly visits to the site then report back to the Foundation," he said, adding that REDI had to adhere to certain procedures set by the Foundation.

"Our projects have been a success such that we now have some enterprises exporting to the United States and Australia.

Our projects include a honey production project, a horticulture project and an embroidery project in Mpaka, which is exporting to the United Kingdom and Washington."

Dube said REDI, was looking for viable community projects that could benefit from the Fund. "We're looking for viable projects in communities where these funds can be invested so as to improve the lives of the poor."

. . . receive E1.8m loan from USADF



Dairy cows.